

The Hongkong Telegraph

ESTABLISHED 1881.

NEW SERIES No. 181. 日一月三五年五十二緒光

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1899.

一月十日四英港香

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

Banks.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
ESTABLISHED 1880.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....\$10,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$10,000,000
RESERVE FUND.....\$7,000,000

Head Office—YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies—
KOBÉ NEW YORK
LONDON LYONS
SAN FRANCISCO HONOLULU
BOMBAY SHANGHAI

LONDON BANKERS:
THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LTD.
PARRS' BANK, LTD.
THE UNION BANK OF LONDON, LTD.

HONGKONG AGENCY—INTEREST ALLOWED
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent
per Annum on the Daily Balance.

On fixed deposits for 12 months at 3 per cent.

6 8 4
3 3 3
2 2 2

S. CHOU, Agent.

Hongkong, 3rd October, 1898. [382]

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

Authorised Capital.....\$10,000,000

Paid up Capital.....\$3,437,4

HEAD OFFICE: HONGKONG.

Board of Directors:
E. Burnie, Esq. D. Gilles, Esq.
Chen Kit Shan, Esq. Kuan Hoi Chuen, Esq.
Chow Tung Shang, Esq. J. T. Lauts, Esq.

Chief Manager—
GEO. W. E. PLAYFAIR.

Interest for 12 months—Fixed

Hongkong, 24th March, 1898. [18]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$10,000,000

RESERVE FUND.....\$10,000,000

RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROFITORS.....\$10,000,000

Chief Directors:
R. M. CHAN Esq. Chairman.
N. A. STILES, Esq. Deputy Chairman.
The Hon. J. Bell-Irving.

E. Goetz, Esq. A. McConachie, Esq.
David Gullay, Esq. A. J. Raymond, Esq.
A. Haupt, Esq. P. Sachse, Esq.
R. H. Hill, Esq. R. Shawan, Esq.

Chief Manager:
Hongkong, T. JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER:

Shanghai, J. P. WADE GARVÉER, Esq.

LONDON BANKERS: LONDON AND COUNTY
BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent
per Annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 3 months, 2 per cent. per Annum.
For 6 months, 3 per cent. per Annum.
For 12 months, 4 per cent. per Annum.

J. T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager,

Hongkong, 23rd March, 1899. [19]

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE BUSINESS of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3½ PER
CENT. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option
balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED
DEPOSIT at 4 PER CENT. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager,

Hongkong, 1st August, 1895. [10]

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.

HEAD OFFICE: LONDON.

CAPITAL PAID-UP.....\$600,000

RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS.....\$800,000

RESERVE FUND.....\$150,000

INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the rate of 2 per cent. per
annum on the Daily Balances.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months, 4 per cent.

6 8 4
3 3 3
2 2 2

T. H. WHITEHEAD,

Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 24th May, 1898. [33]

IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

ESTABLISHED BY IMPERIAL DECREE
OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 1896.

Shanghai Taels

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....\$5,000,000

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$2,500,000

Head Office—SHANGHAI.

Branches and Agencies:

CANTON PANKOW

CHEFOO PEKING

CHINKIANG SWATOW

FOOCHOW TIENTSIN

THE Bank purchases and receives for collection Bills of Exchange drawn on the above places, and Sells Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers Payable at its Branches and Agencies.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

Advances made on approved securities.

Bills discounted.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:

3% per Annum Fixed Deposits for 3 months

6 8 4
3 3 3
2 2 2

E. W. RUTTER,

Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 15th October, 1898. [337]

Intimations.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Intimations.

Intimations.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL
AGENCY, LIMITED.

Intimations.

SOLE AGENTS IN

HONGKONG, CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,

FOR THE

UNITED ASBESTOS CO., LTD., LONDON,

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. GOVERNMENT:

MANUFACTURERS OF THE

Best Qualities of ASBESTOS GOODS and PACKINGS.

HYDRAULIC and SELF-LUBRICATING PUMP and PACKINGS of all kinds.

"VICTOR" METALLIC BOILER JOINTS.

ASBESTOS SALAMANDER BOILER COVERING COMPOSITION of the best qualities.

ESTIMATES given for every DESCRIPTION of WORK.

SUPERINTENDENT.....THOS. SKINNER

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, General Agents.

27

Intimations.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL
COMPANY, LIMITED.

Issue of 3,121 Shares of \$50 each, fully paid up.

The Directors are prepared to receive offers for the above Shares, which remain unissued.

Applicants should state the price per share, including premium, they are willing to pay, but no shares will be allotted for less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$75.00) per share. Preference will be given in the allotment to those persons who on the 15th April, 1899, are registered as Shareholders.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any offer.

Forms of Application (as under) can be obtained at the COMPANY'S OFFICE or from the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The applications must be sent in to the Undersigned not later than 5 o'clock P.M., on SATURDAY, the 15th April, 1899.

C. MOONEY,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1899.

Form of Application.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COM-
PANY, LIMITED.

Issue of 3,121 Shares of \$50 each, fully paid up.

To the Directors of

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY
LIMITED.

In pursuance of and upon the terms men-
tioned in the Notice dated 27th March,

1899, I beg to apply for

or any less

number that you may allot to me of the

above mentioned shares, for which I am

willing to pay a premium of \$

per share, and I will pay the sum of \$50 per share and

the premium for or in respect of every share

allotted, to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION not later than the

30th April, 1899.

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(Date) _____

Hongkong, 27th March, 1899. [425a]

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN
GOLD MINING CO., LTD.

NOTICE to SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of
SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company
will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 12th April, at
NOON, at the OFFICES of the Company,
7, Queen's Road, Central, when the subjoined
Special Resolution which was passed at the
Extraordinary General Meeting held on 28th
March, 1899, will be submitted for confirmation.

"That the Capital of the Company be in-
creased to \$500,000 by the creation of 16,000
Ordinary Shares of \$30.00 each, and 7,000
Preference Shares of \$10.00 each; such shares
to be issued at the discretion of the Directors,
provided that they shall be offered in the first
instance to the existing shareholders in pro-
portion to the amount of the capital held by
them at the time of such issue.

The Holders of the said Preference Shares
shall be entitled to a cumulative preferential
Dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

Whenever the profits of the Company in
respect of any year shall be more than suffi-
cient to pay the preferential dividend aforesaid
to the close of such year, and also a dividend
for such year at the rate of 12 per cent. per
annum on the Ordinary Shares, the Holders of
the said Preference Shares shall be entitled to
participate in the surplus *pari passu* with the
holders of the other Shares.

In the event of the winding-up of the Com-
pany, the Holders of the said Preference Shares
shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of
the Company applied in the first case in repaying
to them the amount paid on the Prefer-
ence Shares held by them respectively, and the
residue of such surplus assets shall, subject to
the rights of members entitled to Shares issued
from special conditions as hereinafter provided
aforesaid, be divided among the Ordinary
Shareholders of the Company, and if there
shall be more than sufficient to pay the amount
paid up on the Ordinary Shares, such surplus
as may still be available between the Holders of
the Preference Shares and the Ordinary Shares
ratably.

LUDGINS, EINSTMANN & CO.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1899. [434a]

To be Let.

OFFICE ROOMS on 1st floor of No. 4
Queen's Road, Central (lately the IM-
PERIAL BANK OF CHINA).

Apply to

Comprador Office,
E. C. HOCHAPFEL.

Hongkong, 23rd March, 1899. [438a]

To Let.

SEMI-DETACHED VILLA RESIDEN-
CES on Bowen Road (now in course of
erection).

PROPERTY now occupied by the

Bowring Saw Mills.

FLOORS in STAUNTON and ELGIN
STREETS.

"BAHAR LODGE."

Apply to

</div

To-day's
Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL,

MESSRS. DALIAS AND MUSGRAVE'S
THEATRICAL SEASON.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!

LAST 2 NIGHTS OF
THE WORLD RENOWNED DRAMA
"THE SILVER KING."(Special Scenery painted for this great
production.)WEDNESDAY, April 12th,
Grand Production of

• MARK MELFORD'S

FUNNIEST OF ALL FUNNY FARCE

COMEDIES,

"TURNED UP."

PRICES—\$3, \$2 and \$1.

Soldiers and Sailors (in uniform) half-price to
back seats only.

Box Plan at the ROBINSON PIANO CO.

NOTICE.—A special tram will run a quarter of
an hour after fall of curtain every evening.W. H. BROWN,
Business Manager.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [424a]

FRENCH COMIC OPERA COMPANY.

C. DARON, Directeur, 18me Année.

CITY HALL—ST. ANDREW'S HALL,
TO-NIGHT, 10 April, 1899,
9 hours.Under the Patronage of
His Excellency Sir HENRY BLAKE, K.C.M.G.GRAND PERFORMANCE,
to be given by,Mlle C. VASTI, Mlle J. LORIG,
Ire Chanteuse d'opéra, Ire Daguion.Mr. C. DANON,
le Comique populaire,Mlle M. SAVART, E. DANENBERG,
Chanteuse à la fiction, Pianiste.

Artistes des principaux Théâtres de Paris.

LE GRAND SUCCESS

Les Pantins de Violette,

Opéra Comique en 1 acte.

MUSIQUE DE MR. A. ADAM.

Alcoffras Mr. C. DARON; Pierrot Mlle J. LORIG;

Violette Mlle VASTI.

Preceded by

A Grand Musical Performance

By the whole Company.

LES PARISIENNES!!!

Grande Polka, chantée,

par

Mlle VASTI—LORIG et SAVART.

On commence par

PIAGA et PIETRO

Opéra en 1 acte

Musique de Paul Henrion.

PAOLA, Mlle VASTI—PIETRO, Mlle LORIG.

PAIACE OF ADMISSION:

RESERVED SEATS.....\$3

STALLS.....\$2

Tickets at ROBINSON PIANO CO.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [469a]

BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Government Notification

No. 205 of 7th instant, the Undermentioned

Banks will be CLOSED for the Transaction

of Public Business, on MONDAY, the 17th

instant.

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,

AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

T. H. WHITEHEAD,

Manager, Hongkong.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING

CORPORATION.

T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager.

For the NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,

LIMITED.

G. W. F. PLAYFAIR,

Chief Manager.

For the MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED.

JOHN THURBURN,

Manager, Hongkong.

For the BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE,

Hongkong Agency.

L. BÉRINDOAGUE,

Acting Manager.

For the BANK OF CHINA & JAPAN, LIMITED,

HONGKONG.

CHANTREY INCHBALD,

Manager.

For the YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED,

S. CHOI,

Agent.

For the IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA,

E. W. RUTTER,

Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [483a]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"CANDIA"

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, PORT

SAID, SUEZ, BOMBAY & STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named

vessel are hereby informed that their Goods

will be landed and placed at their risk in

the new territory, at 8:30 for 9 p.m. precisely,

Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [482a]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"CANDIA"

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, PORT

SAID, SUEZ, BOMBAY & STRAITS.

Optional goods will be landed here unless

instructions are given to the contrary before 2

P.M. TO-DAY.

Goods not cleared by the 16th instant, at 4

P.M. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in

any case whatever.

All damaged Packages must be left in the

Godown and a certificate of the damage ob-

tained from the Godown Company within ten

days after the vessel's arrival here, after which

no claims will be recognised.

H. A. RITCHIE,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [484a]

To-day's
Advertisements.DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAICHING,"

Captain Hodgins, will be despatched for the
above Ports, TO-MORROW, the 11th instant,
at Noon, instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAT & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [481a]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"JAVA,"

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, PORT

SAID, SUEZ AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named

vessel are hereby informed that their Goods

are being landed and placed at their risk in

the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown

Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each

consignment will be sorted out mark by mark

and delivery can be obtained as soon as the

Goods are landed.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless

instructions are given to the contrary before 5

P.M. TO-DAY.

PRICES—\$3, \$2 and \$1.

Soldiers and Sailors (in uniform) half-price to
back seats only.

Box Plan at the ROBINSON PIANO CO.

NOTICE.—A special tram will run a quarter of
an hour after fall of curtain every evening.W. H. BROWN,
Business Manager.

Hongkong, 10th April. [424a]

FRENCH COMIC OPERA COMPANY.

C. DARON, Directeur, 18me Année.

CITY HALL—ST. ANDREW'S HALL,
TO-NIGHT, 10 April, 1899,

9 hours.

Under the Patronage of
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to be given by,

Mlle C. VASTI, Mlle J. LORIG,

Ire Chanteuse d'opéra, Ire Daguion.

Mr. C. DANON,

le Comique populaire,

Mlle M. SAVART, E. DANENBERG,

Chanteuse à la fiction, Pianiste.

Artistes des principaux Théâtres de Paris.

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Alcoffras Mr. C. DARON; Pierrot Mlle J. LORIG;

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PAIACE OF ADMISSION:

RESERVED SEATS.....\$3

STALLS.....\$2

Tickets at ROBINSON PIANO CO.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1899. [469a]

BANK HOLIDAY.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

(For Invalids and General Use.)

Per doz.

B.—VINTAGE, superior quality,

Red Capsule \$14.40

C.—FINE OLD VINTAGE, sup-

erior quality, Black

Seal Capsule 16.20

D.—VERY FINE OLD VINTAGE

extra superior, Violet

Capsule (Old Bottled) 20.40

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

PORTS

(For Invalids and General Use.)

Per doz.

B

THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Monday, the 17th instant, having been selected as the date for the hoisting of the British flag in the new territory, will be observed as a public holiday. Papers relating to the new territory, including the long expected report of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., are published in the *Gazette*. The first document dated 20th October, 1898, is as follows:—

ORDER OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN COUNCIL.

Whereas by a convention dated the 9th day of June, 1898, between Her Majesty and His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of China, it is provided that the limits of British territory in the regions adjacent to the colony of Hongkong shall be enlarged, under leases to Her Majesty in the manner described in the said convention.

And whereas it is expedient to make provision for the Government of the territories acquired by Her Majesty under the said Convention, during the continuance of the said lease,

It is hereby ordered by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, as follows:—

1.—The territories, within the limits and for the term described in the said Convention shall be and the same are hereby declared to be part and parcel of Her Majesty's colony of Hongkong in like manner, and for all intents and purposes as if they had originally formed part of the said colony.

2.—It shall be competent for the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of the said colony, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the said territories as part of the colony.

3.—From a date to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor of Hongkong, all laws and ordinances which shall at such date be in force in the colony of Hongkong shall take effect in the said territories and shall remain in force therein until the same shall have been altered or repealed by Her Majesty or by the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice or consent of the Legislative Council.

4.—Notwithstanding anything herein contained the Chinese officials now stationed within the city of Kowloon shall continue, to exercise jurisdiction therein except in so far as may be inconsistent with the military requirements for the defence of Hongkong.

And the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary direction hereinafter accordingly.

A. W. FITZROY.

PROCLAMATION.

Next follows a proclamation by H.E. the Governor-directing—that from the 17th April, 1899, all laws and ordinances which shall at such date be in force in the colony of Hongkong shall take effect in the said territories and shall remain in force until the same shall have been altered or repealed by Her Majesty or by the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice or consent of the Legislative Council.

NEW ORDINANCES.

The drafts of the following three Bills are published:—An Ordinance to exempt the territories comprised in the recent extension of the colony of Hongkong from the operation of certain laws and for other purposes; "An Ordinance relating to Local Communities and Tribunals"; "An Ordinance to provide for the Better Regulation of the New Territories".

In the first Bill twenty-three Ordinances are enumerated as not applying to the new territories and include the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-houses, and Markets Ordinances, the Licensing, Public Health Ordinances, the Building Ordinances, and the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinances. But sections 4 and 5 of the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-houses and Markets Ordinance are to be enforced to provide against the sale and importation of unwholesome food.

The object of the second Bill is to establish village tribunals in the new territory for the trial of petty civil and criminal cases. The civil jurisdiction of these tribunals is to be limited to cases in which the amount involved does not exceed \$100, and in criminal matters where doubtless be able to give you every information.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1887.—LICENSING.

CONSOLIDATION.

11.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should for the present be excluded. Registration of births and deaths should, however, be carried out as soon as possible, and might be entrusted to the Village Councils and Elders, working under the supervision of an Assistant Registrar General or other European Officer.

ORDINANCE 14 OF 1875.—MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS.

9.—I agree with Mr. Goodman that this Ordinance need not be excluded.

ORDINANCE 1 OF 1887.—POST-OFFICE.

10.—I agree with Mr. Goodman that this Ordinance need not be excluded. But it has been pointed out to me by Mr. Lockhart that, owing to the known habits of the Chinese in the matter of correspondence, there may be considerable difficulties in carrying it into operation, and I should wish to you to considerable discretion in the matter. You may possibly find it desirable to come to some arrangement with the Chinese Sub-Post Offices such as is in force in the Straits Settlements, and in that case the Governor of that Colony would doubtless be able to give you every information.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1887.—LICENSING.

AND AMENDING ORDINANCES.

12.—I regard this as one of the most important and at the same time one of the most difficult questions to be considered in connection with the new territory. I entirely agree with Mr. Goodman that the new district must not be left without any sanitary laws, but I consider that it would not be advisable to extend it without any modification the sanitary laws of Hongkong. I have been represented to me by Mr. Lockhart that they are too complicated and too advanced for the circumstances of the new territory; and that although the Sanitary Board may be the best machinery for dealing with the sanitary affairs of Hongkong, which is in the main a city and a seaport, it is not suited for the direction of sanitary matters in a territory extending over 370 square miles. Mr. Lockhart is of opinion that the Village Councils and Elders should be held responsible for maintaining their villages in a sanitary condition, subject to the inspection and control of an officer of health and his staff, who should be held directly responsible to the Government. By this means the Village Councils and Elders will constitute the Sanitary Board, in each village or group of villages, the influence of the leading men will be enlisted on the side of sanitation, and matters will work more effectively and smoothly than they would under any other system. The expense, moreover, of applying the Sanitary laws of Hongkong would, I am informed, probably be very great, whereas under the alternative system proposed it would be comparatively trifling.

13.—I am of opinion, therefore, that these laws should be excluded, but you should lose no time in preparing the enactment of a simpler law on the lines above suggested, and here again you may possibly find it desirable to consult the Governor of the Straits Settlements as to the system under which Sanitary Boards are working in the Federated Malay States.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1886.—SPIRIT LICENSES.

14.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should be excluded for the present.

ORDINANCE 15 OF 1889.—BUILDING ORDINANCE AND AMENDING ORDINANCE.

15.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that these Ordinances should be excluded unless the Director of Public Works reports that they can be satisfactorily carried out in the new territory.

ORDINANCE 5 OF 1890.—VACCINATION.

16.—I agree that this Ordinance may properly be included.

ORDINANCE 26 OF 1891.—MERCHANT SHIPPING.

17.—As a new Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance is about to be introduced it may be advisable to exclude the existing Ordinance from the new territory. There are three points which Her Majesty's Government have regarded as of special importance in the preliminary stages of the negotiations. They relate to Kowloon city, the northern boundary of the leased territory, and the collection of the Chinese dues on opium.

18.—You have already become acquainted with the general aspects of the questions involved in the transfer of this territory, and it is unnecessary therefore that I should here dwell upon them at any length. There are three points which Her Majesty's Government have regarded as of special importance in the preliminary stages of the negotiations. They relate to Kowloon city, the northern boundary of the leased territory, and the collection of the Chinese dues on opium.

4.—The questions of the civil administration of Kowloon city and of the extension of the northern frontier so as to include the town of Sham Chun will require no immediate action on your part pending negotiations with the Chinese Government, but—while such negotiations are pending—in time should be lost in giving attention to the third question, that of the prevention of smuggling into China and the collection of the Chinese Customs duties on opium. You will see that Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion which—if I understand right—is your own conclusion also, that the only satisfactory solution of this question will be the establishment of some system whereby the Chinese Customs duties on opium imported into China from Hongkong, including the newly-added territory, shall be actually collected by the Government of Hongkong.

5.—I should wish you to understand that in my opinion the new territory should from the outset be regarded as an integral part of the colony of Hongkong, and, as such, should be brought under the general administration of the colony at as early a date as possible. It appears to me that future difficulties will be obviated by taking this course, and that it will be found to be at once more economical than treating the leased district as separate from the old colony. It has, therefore, become necessary to consider whether and in what manner the existing laws of Hongkong may be adapted to the circumstances of the new territory, and this question, as I need hardly observe, presents many features of great difficulty. On the principle that the new territory shall be taken to be part of the colony, it is desirable that as many of the existing laws of Hongkong as are applicable to its circumstances should be at once applied, the administration of the laws being carried out with tact, discretion, and sympathy with native custom and prejudice; but there are some laws which are inapplicable and they require some special notice.

6.—I have taken advantage of the presence in this country of Mr. Goodman, Attorney General of Hongkong; and he has drawn up a memorandum on the subject together with a draft Ordinance, copies of which are enclosed. This memorandum has been of great use to me in considering the question and the conclusions at which I have arrived as regards the various Ordinances therein referred to are as follows:—

ORDINANCE 3 OF 1844.—LAND, ETC., REGISTRATION OF DEEDS, ETC., RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

7.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that for the reasons given by him this Ordinance need not be excluded. The land question, however, is one which must be dealt with promptly, and one of the first steps to be taken must be the appointment of a Land Commissioner with a staff of native surveyors. To this subject I refer in a later paragraph of this despatch.

ORDINANCE 16 OF 1856.—REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

8.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should for the present be excluded. Registration of births and deaths should, however, be carried out as soon as possible, and might be entrusted to the Village Councils and Elders, working under the supervision of an Assistant Registrar General or other European Officer.

ORDINANCE 14 OF 1875.—MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS.

9.—I agree with Mr. Goodman that this Ordinance need not be excluded.

ORDINANCE 1 OF 1887.—POST-OFFICE.

10.—I agree with Mr. Goodman that this Ordinance need not be excluded. But it has been pointed out to me by Mr. Lockhart that, owing to the known habits of the Chinese in the matter of correspondence, there may be considerable difficulties in carrying it into operation, and I should wish to you to considerable discretion in the matter. You may possibly find it desirable to come to some arrangement with the Chinese Sub-Post Offices such as is in force in the Straits Settlements, and in that case the Governor of that Colony would doubtless be able to give you every information.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1887.—LICENSING.

11.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should for the present be excluded. Registration of births and deaths should, however, be carried out as soon as possible, and might be entrusted to the Village Councils and Elders, working under the supervision of an Assistant Registrar General or other European Officer.

ORDINANCE 24 OF 1887.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND AMENDING ORDINANCES.

12.—I regard this as one of the most important and at the same time one of the most difficult questions to be considered in connection with the new territory. I entirely agree with Mr. Goodman that the new district must not be left without any sanitary laws, but I consider that it would not be advisable to extend it without any modification the sanitary laws of Hongkong. I have been represented to me by Mr. Lockhart that they are too complicated and too advanced for the circumstances of the new territory; and that although the Sanitary Board may be the best machinery for dealing with the sanitary affairs of Hongkong, which is in the main a city and a seaport, it is not suited for the direction of sanitary matters in a territory extending over 370 square miles. Mr. Lockhart is of opinion that the Village Councils and Elders should be held responsible for maintaining their villages in a sanitary condition, subject to the inspection and control of an officer of health and his staff, who should be held directly responsible to the Government. By this means the Village Councils and Elders will constitute the Sanitary Board, in each village or group of villages, the influence of the leading men will be enlisted on the side of sanitation, and matters will work more effectively and smoothly than they would under any other system. The expense, moreover, of applying the Sanitary laws of Hongkong would, I am informed, probably be very great, whereas under the alternative system proposed it would be comparatively trifling.

13.—I am of opinion, therefore, that these laws should be excluded, but you should lose no time in preparing the enactment of a simpler law on the lines above suggested, and here again you may possibly find it desirable to consult the Governor of the Straits Settlements as to the system under which Sanitary Boards are working in the Federated Malay States.

ORDINANCE 24 OF 1887.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND AMENDING ORDINANCES.

14.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should be excluded unless the Director of Public Works reports that they can be satisfactorily carried out in the new territory.

ORDINANCE 5 OF 1890.—VACCINATION.

15.—I agree that this Ordinance may properly be included.

ORDINANCE 26 OF 1891.—MERCHANT SHIPPING.

16.—As a new Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance is about to be introduced it may be advisable to exclude the existing Ordinance from the new territory. There are three points which Her Majesty's Government have regarded as of special importance in the preliminary stages of the negotiations. They relate to Kowloon city, the northern boundary of the leased territory, and the collection of the Chinese dues on opium.

ORDINANCE 27 OF 1852.—CATTLE DISEASE AND AMENDING ORDINANCES.

17.—Before deciding whether this Ordinance should be extended to the new territory, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon might with advantage be called upon for a report of any recommendations he may be able to make after a full and careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case. But I agree with Mr. Goodman that Sections 4 and 5 of Ordinance 23 of 1893 dealing with the sale and importation of unwholesome food should be extended at once.

18.—As all Ordinances not specified in the schedule attached to Mr. Goodman's draft Ordinance will apply to the new territory, you should carefully consider whether there are any others not alluded to in his memorandum, which might be also desirable to exclude.

19.—There are various other questions to be considered in connexion with the new territory which will require your careful consideration, and some of which have doubtless already received your attention. I do not propose, however, to do more than refer to them generally at the present moment, as their ultimate decision must depend in a great measure on the course of events.

20.—You will have gathered, from my previous remarks that I am in favour of utilizing the existing machinery of Government in Hongkong as far as local circumstances will allow. This principle should, therefore, be borne in mind in considering all questions connected with expenditure and taxation. Whatever expenditure is incurred should appear on the Hongkong Estimates, and whatever revenue is collected should go into the Hongkong Exchequer.

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FRUITS.

The fruits are pumelos, oranges, lungnings, pears, litchis, persimmons, pomegranates, mangos, and grapes.

VEGETATION.

The mountain ranges and lower hills are covered with vegetation, and cultivation is found high up on the hill-sides. In some places a crop of rice was growing at an elevation of 1,300 feet, and on the northern slopes of the Taimo Shan range tea and pineapple were observed growing at an elevation of 1,500 feet. The range of Taimo Shan, stretching to the west, towards Castle Peak Bay, is covered with good grass, which appears to be such as would suit cattle, horses and sheep, many thousands of which could find pasture on the slopes of these hills. At present cattle are used entirely for agricultural purposes. The animals seen were small and well shaped, and generally black or red in colour. Their good condition showed the excellence of the pasture. In the poorer and rocky soil the hills are covered with bracken and ferns, and in the sheltered ravines with brushwood and scrub jungle. There are no extensive forests, but some of the lower hills, are clothed with pine-trees, and round many of the villages are found thick clumps of well-grown trees and groves of bamboo.

POPULATION.

There are no reliable statistics possessed by the Chinese Government of the present population of the San On District. No census appears to have been taken for many years. It has therefore been necessary to base the estimate of the population on inquiries made from the inhabitants of the villages themselves. With these as guides it is estimated that the population of the new territory, including the Sham Chun and Shatau Kok divisions, and allowing 5,000 for that portion of the Shatau division, which will most probably be in the new area, amounts in round figures to one hundred thousand (100,000).

25.—The question of titles to land should be settled as early as possible; and in order to expedite the work of registration, holders of land should be allowed to register their titles at an office in the new territory instead of having to waste time by coming to an office in Victoria. The officer, moreover, who is entrusted with the duty of settling the land titles should, within reason, be given for the time being full powers to deal with all questions of the kind that may come before him. When all the land titles have been settled and proper surveys made the principal land office will be in Hongkong itself. The examination into titles should not be of too technical a nature, and where lengthened occupation or improvements can be shown, with no adverse claims from private individuals, a Government title should be granted, even if no other is forthcoming. Security for all reasonable rights in regard to land will be a great inducement to content and loyalty and to the popularizing of British rule.

26.—The land question, however, by no means ends here, and there will be much left to consider after the preliminary survey is completed. The land tax will doubtless be at first the principal source of revenue, and it should be distinctly understood from the first that, as the land becomes more valuable, the tax will be subject to revision at intervals of years. It will also be necessary to consider what shall be the tenure of Crown lands. Seeing that the territory is held under lease for ninety-nine years, the question of freehold grants, does not arise, and the land should be leased for stated periods, not exceeding the term which I have laid down in the case of the present colony with powers of resumption on fair terms if the public service requires it.

27.—In dealing with the question of what laws should be extended, but you should lose no time in preparing the enactment of a simpler law on the lines above suggested, and here again you may possibly find it desirable to consult the Governor of the Straits Settlements as to the system under which Sanitary Boards are working in the Federated Malay States.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1886.—SPIRIT LICENSES.

14.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should be excluded for the present.

ORDINANCE 15 OF 1889.—BUILDING ORDINANCE AND AMENDING ORDINANCE.

15.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that these Ordinances should be excluded unless the Director of Public Works reports that they can be satisfactorily carried out in the new territory.

ORDINANCE 5 OF 1890.—VACCINATION.

16.—I agree that this Ordinance may properly be included.

ORDINANCE 2

